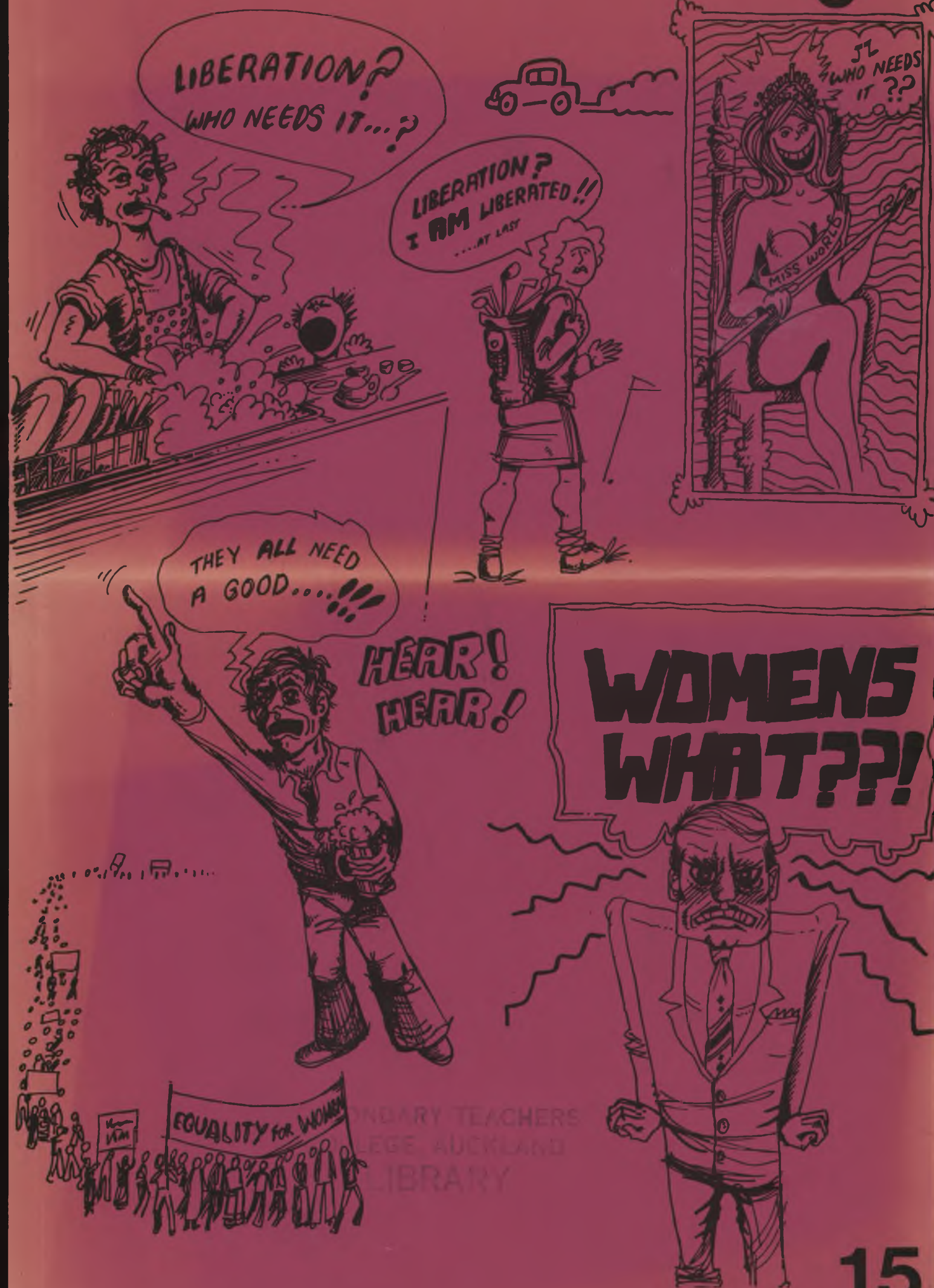


# roadsheet

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WOMEN'S LIBERATION, AUCKLAND: February: CENTS

Registered at Post Office Headquarters, Wellington as a magazine







# editorial opPRESSed



On Monday, January 29 in the Auckland Star, Dr Gabrielle Collison (29), formerly a school medical officer in Timaru, and now newly appointed to the post of Deputy Medical Officer of Health for Auckland said she was not "an advocate of women's lib". Likewise, Mrs Henry Ford doesn't "advocate women's lib" and Mrs Jack Marshall (their own names escape me) doesn't either. According to the press no one has been advocating Women's Liberation all year. Even Mary Batchelor, who is on the Equal Pay and Opportunity Council among other things, found it necessary to ring the NZBC studios on election night to deny that she was a feminist after they had described her as such.

We have been called "extremists", "an obscenely vocal minority" and some of our members described as "lunatic fringe".

Things like displays in the Building Centre, letters and telegrams to MP's and newspapers, deputations to City Councils, talks to women's groups and schools, even Pro-Abortion marches and Women's Liberationists chaining themselves to the railings in the Christchurch Cathedral Square (they got permission first) hardly constitute extreme action. Nobody threw themselves under the feet of the leading horse during the running of the Auckland Cup. Nobody daubed the office of the Freezing Workers' Union with sheep's innards at the time of the Whakatu dispute (although that would have been fun). None of us raped Rob Muldoon in his own constituency for being the Male Chauvinist Pig of the Year. Yet so sensitive are we of the generally unsympathetic attitude of many people to our movement that we

were forced to play it cool on a number of occasions when we thought our public image might endanger support which we needed for various projects which we undertook. Thus, although Knowhow in Auckland was established by Women's Liberation groups, mention of this fact had to be kept ever so quiet so that other organisations involved would not be antagonised.

It doesn't require a clairvoyant to see where the blame lies. The press are the villains of the piece. They have never treated equality for women as a serious subject. They were putting it down in Punch last century and they're still at it. What can you make of this item from the Auckland Star?

"Women's Lib. Two English mothers, their six children and an Irish nurse were rescued yesterday from a rudderless yacht which had drifted in a storm off the Brittany coast for about 24 hours." I mean, how can Women's Liberationists possibly talk about equal rights for women when they lose their rudder in the English Channel?

Women's Liberation will be mentioned in connection with a drop in bra sales but never with why mothers bash their babies. When Mrs Marshall says Women's Liberation "holds no charm" for her they hang on her every word but when Shirley Chisholm said she had encountered more bigotry as a woman than as a negro, Women's Liberation is not mentioned. It's relevant when a few women take up pipe smoking but not when you're reporting that the average U.K. male weekly pay is \$72 while the female rate has just topped \$40.

How are people going to learn that our movement is a serious one if the only time it is mentioned is when some clown in a newspaper office wants a bit of a giggle.

Underneath it all is the fundamental problem that newspapers are owned and run by men. And many men don't like Women's Liberation. They don't like what they regard as "uppity women" - women who are tired of the raw deal society has been handing them for so long and who have the energy and conviction to do something about it. For most women, being liked by men is what being a woman is all about, so the average well-conditioned woman will think twice before she allies herself with a movement which is regarded with odium by most men.

And that's why Gabrielle Collison said she was not "an advocate of women's lib". And that's why 1973 has to be the year we take the newspapers on and inform the people of our true message.

Sandra Coney



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manifesto

Women's Liberation is a movement for human equality, a movement aimed to liberate women from the deeply imbedded image of their own inferiority. It is a movement aimed to liberate women from narrow, limiting social roles, so that women in New Zealand can grow up facing an open future with many and varied opportunities for development and fulfilment. It is a movement aimed to liberate persons, both men and women from stultifying social roles and stereotypes, in order that men and women may be fairly assessed as persons. It is a movement aimed to encourage more honest and realistic relationships between men and women. It is a movement aimed to improve the quality of life of men, women and children in New Zealand. We see this as possible only through the improvement of the position of women in our society.

Excerpt from the Manifesto of the Auckland Women's Liberation Group.

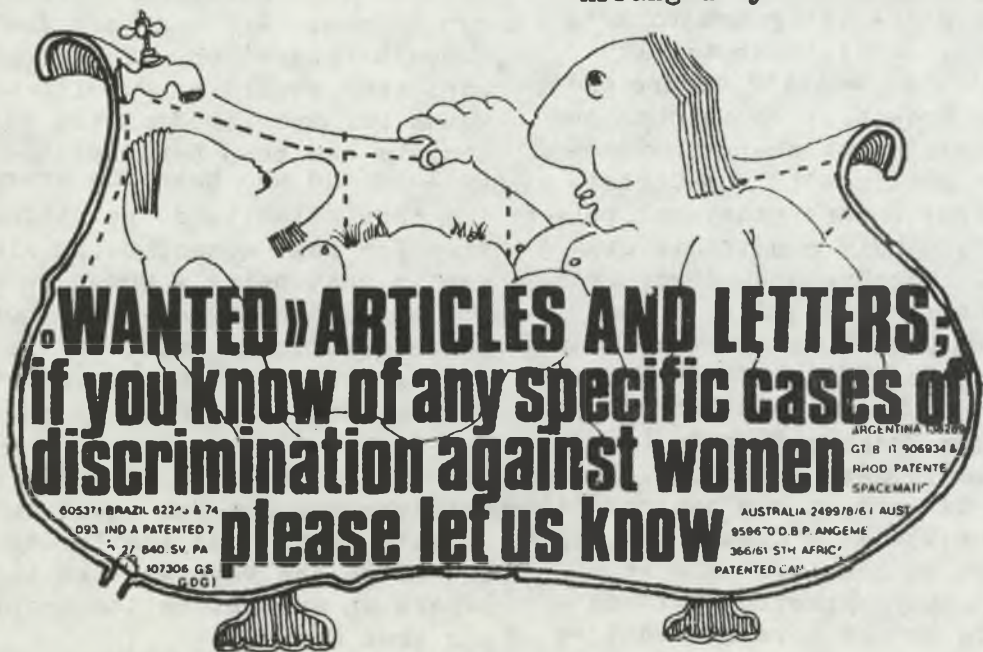
people

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deadline for issue 7  
monday  
26 february

Open Day for University Orientation.  
Women's Liberation  
10 a.m. - 3 p.m. Saturday March 3  
MacLaurin Hall, Princes St.  
Guest Speaker.....Cherry Raymond  
Panel Discussion and Speakers.  
Sandwiches for sale at lunchtime.  
Arranged by Auckland Women's Liberation.





# LIBERATION?

## WHO NEEDS IT ?

When you tell people you support Women's Liberation you could get a number of different responses - from agreement, to any one (or more) of the responses below. We asked Women's Liberation groups throughout New Zealand to answer some of the stock criticisms of the movement. Here is a selection from their replies. (Broadsheet thanks all the groups who responded.)



"Women can't have equal pay, equal chances, equal respect and still want doors opened for them" (Ron Scott, chairman of Commonwealth Games Organising Committee).

Who says we do want doors opened for us? Figuratively speaking, yes; literally, no! It's up to the would-be door openers to free themselves of the stereotype woman they obviously have in mind.

(Wellington Org. for Women)



"Women can be creatures of such loveliness; it would be a vast pity if they lost sight of their decorative potential." (Jenny Lynch, women's editor, Sunday Herald)

Decorativeness has its place - and some people of both sexes will hopefully always have the time and energy to be decorative and something else as well; but let's not call it 'femininity' which makes it sound as if 50% of the population have a vested interest in this and not much else.

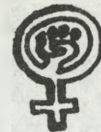
(Hamilton Organisation for Women)



"I get cross with Women's Lib when they talk about people like me and they say we've got an attitude of 'Pull up the ladder, Jill, I'M all right'. This is not my attitude at all. My attitude is that if I can do it with no particular advantage, so can anyone else." (Jocelyn Kinsella, managing director of a public relations company)

You were probably lucky - more self-confident, eloquent and well-educated than most women. Just because you managed to get to the top after a struggle, is that any reason why it should not be made easier for other women to do the same thing? This is the argument of the "self-made woman" who is determined to ensure that all who follow her path suffer as she did. Sadism, perhaps.

(Christchurch W.L.)

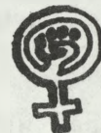


"Women have been given a child-producing function; therefore, it's their duty to rear them. It's nobody's fault but God's."

(Peter Sinclair, of TV fame)

It's up to each woman to see that she isn't stuck with this "duty" rubbish. And let's leave God out of this - She's no male chauvinist.

(NOW, Auckland)



"Why do you have a Women's Liberation movement? I believe in people's liberation." (liberal, leftist male.)

We believe in people's liberation, too. But we must work for women first, because men cannot be liberated until women are. They have to stick to their role of breadwinner until women can share it with them.

(Christchurch W.L.)



"My wife is more liberated than me. She has the car all day, the kids are at school, she can charge things to my account. She spends her days playing golf, bridge, tennis and sitting on the beach, while I work to keep her in money. I'm the one who needs liberating". (businessman)

With some truth on his side, this man feels exploited. But after all, he's played a leading part in a society that expects women to confine themselves to a home - has he ever encouraged her to do anything else? She's just doing what is expected of her, and she's put in her years of hard labour in getting the children to this stage. But let's not call her liberated - lazy, maybe, selfish, thoughtless, but not liberated. She may be bored, frustrated, an under-achiever, though her husband may not realize it. If the man who uses this argument realized what we were really working towards, perhaps he would support us. So tell him!

(NOW, Auckland)



"What about the animal kingdom, or primitive tribes? The male always has the dominant, hunting role; the female, the nurturing role. Doesn't this prove that this is the natural order of things? (a male truck driver)

The name of this game is "pick your monkey", and one of its advantages or disadvantages is that one can choose the primate to suit one's argument. Some, such as baboons and rhesus monkeys, have very aggressive males and very passive females. Yet others, like the marmoset and the tamarin, exhibit the opposite qualities: the marmoset male carries his infant at all times except for feeding, and the tamarin female is more aggressive and competitive than the male.

Today, no one can say what is "natural" as man hasn't been observed in a natural habitat for countless generations. We can only call "natural" what is in harmony with society at a certain point in time.

(Dunedin Collective)

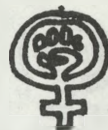


"Women's Lib? I really haven't given it a second thought. I've read about it in the paper, but I've never really thought about it.....as a housewife, a woman has a different function to a man, but it is no less important. I don't think women are in a secondary position." (Sir Robert Kerridge).

If you were suddenly removed from your job and put in the position of a housewife, you'd certainly feel a lot less important and a lot less patronizing.

No doubt the function of a housewife is important (so is the function of a machine), but this is no reason for believing that the majority of women should be expected to spend the best years of their lives fulfilling it.

(Auckland W.L.)

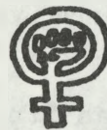


"You are making housewives discontented. You think all women should go to work. You think women who stay at home to rear their children are cabbages." (Housewife)

Housewives are already discontented. This is a technological age and they are among those who find themselves redundant. With the break-up of the extended family, loneliness is contributing to their discontent. Women should be free to choose whether they stay at home or go to work. At present, that choice does not exist.

Where are the child care centres to make this possible? Our present system refuses to acknowledge that some women are not particularly suited to full-time child-rearing.

(Wellington Organisation for Women)



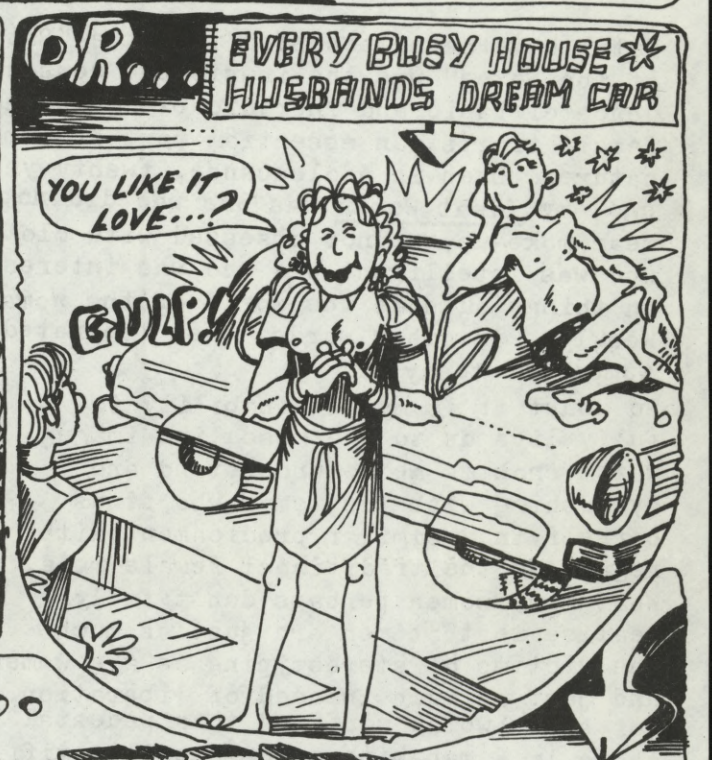
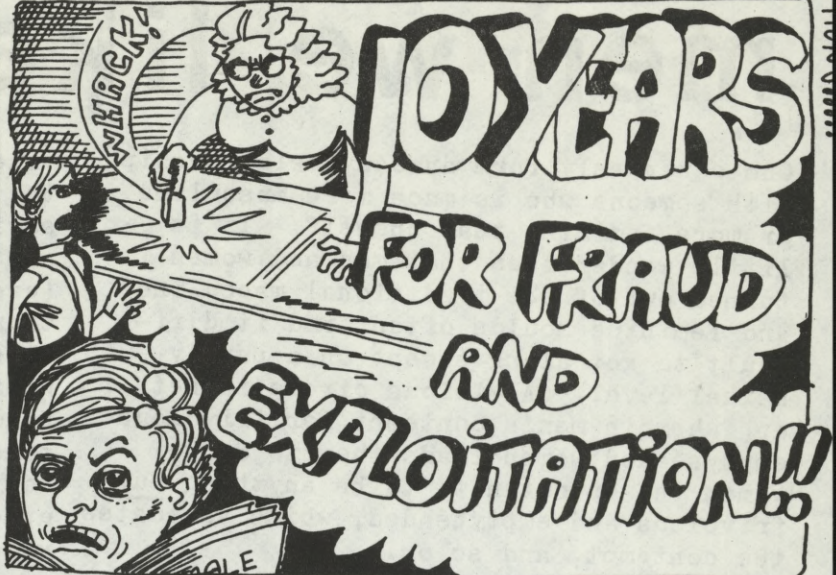
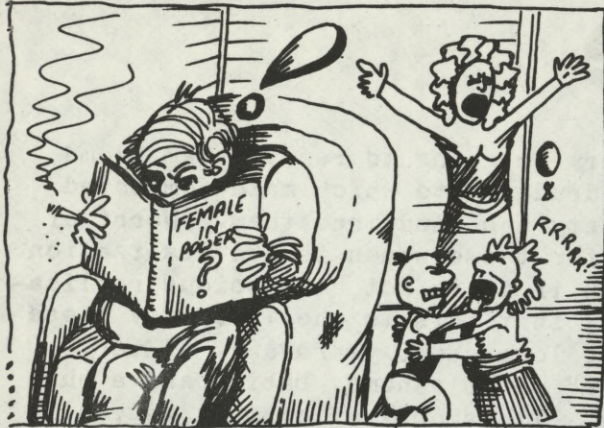
"I don't need Women's Liberation - I'm already liberated." (encountered frequently when selling Broadsheet around Varsity)

When women say this they usually mean that they are liberated sexually, which often isn't the case. They confuse the idea of sexual liberation with the notion of free love. Individual women cannot be truly liberated without all women (society) being liberated. This is impossible under capitalism.

(Women for Equality)



# EXTREME MALE PARANOIA OR SOME OF THE GREAT MYTHOLOGICAL PRECONCE





# men we like

One can rarely form an easy relationship with someone who is much more masculine or more feminine than oneself. It is little wonder then that men and women turned out of the traditional masculine and feminine moulds often find it difficult to get along except on a purely sexual level. A vicious circle is set up, wherein men's contempt for frivolous emptyheaded women leads them to deny women the opportunity to be anything but frivolous and emptyheaded, which validates the contempt, and so on.

But I have never accepted that the "Battle of the Sexes" was the inevitable consequence of basic and ineradicable male and female traits, an essential part of human nature. Even in adolescence, twenty years ago, my Ideal Woman was one who did not wear make-up, was not obsessed with clothes, who was intelligent and who was interested in things outside the world of the Woman's Weekly - in other words, the "liberated woman" of today.

No doubt it is my own inability to fully live up to the masculine image which enables me to understand and sympathise with the women who finds herself in a similar predicament with regard to the traditional female role. What many women perhaps don't fully realise is that men are just as much the victims of stereotyping as are women, and just as much in need of liberation. For every woman confined to a pedestal there is a man with a permanently stiff upper lip.

My support for women's liberation then is not based simply an altruistic sympathy for the plight of women, but also on the belief that women's liberation will be good for men too, as anyone who saw and understood the film "Carnal Knowledge" could hardly fail to agree.

I believe the liberation of women will not merely improve the lot of women at the expense of men, but will rather effect a vast improvement in society as a whole, to the ultimate benefit of everyone: women, children.....and men.

Peter Haines.

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I feel that Women's Liberation has much to offer in service to the community. In my job I see the results of the oppression of women, and I feel powerless to do more than offer first aid. No amount of pills or talking about the reasons for their

misery is going to remove them from the drudgery to which male-dominated society has condemned them. Worst of all for these women is the realization (even if it is not a conscious realization) that this is the life they chose those long-short years ago. "Every woman" wants a home, babies and a husband. It is only after they have all these that they realise that they have lost themselves. The Movement could set up centres in the suburbs, so that women could provide their own source of strength, and not feel even more inferior, as they do when seeking professional help (usually the woman seeks help, only rarely the man).

How has Women's Liberation affected me? Sandra's involvement in the Movement has had my full support from the start. But I must emphasize that it is her group, and her action, and her independence. I have gained immensely from her involvement, and the benefits started with her emergence from the claustrophobic four walls of "domestic bliss". Through Sandra I have met people (most of whom happen to be women) who are not afraid to be people, and who accept me as a person, rather than a male stereotype. I have discovered that it is not strange to believe that man and woman can be equal. Not everyone finds it odd that Sandra and I share the housework, the gardening and the financial worries. We also share the joys and otherwise of caring for our child; something I would not have had if we lived out our stereotypes. Many people think it queer that I am so involved with the day-to-day care of our child ("that's women's work"), yet all three of us benefit greatly from this.

Association with the Women's Liberation Movement has clarified my relationships with friends and acquaintances. I am more aware of the offensiveness of most men's behaviour towards women, over a range of situations from T.V. advertisements, to party chat, and of most women's participation in this. While it may be easier to act our parts in the long-established sex-role play, I think it is possible, with help from the Women's Liberation Movement, to emerge from these crushing sexual stereotypes into a freer and more rational society.

Alan Fraser

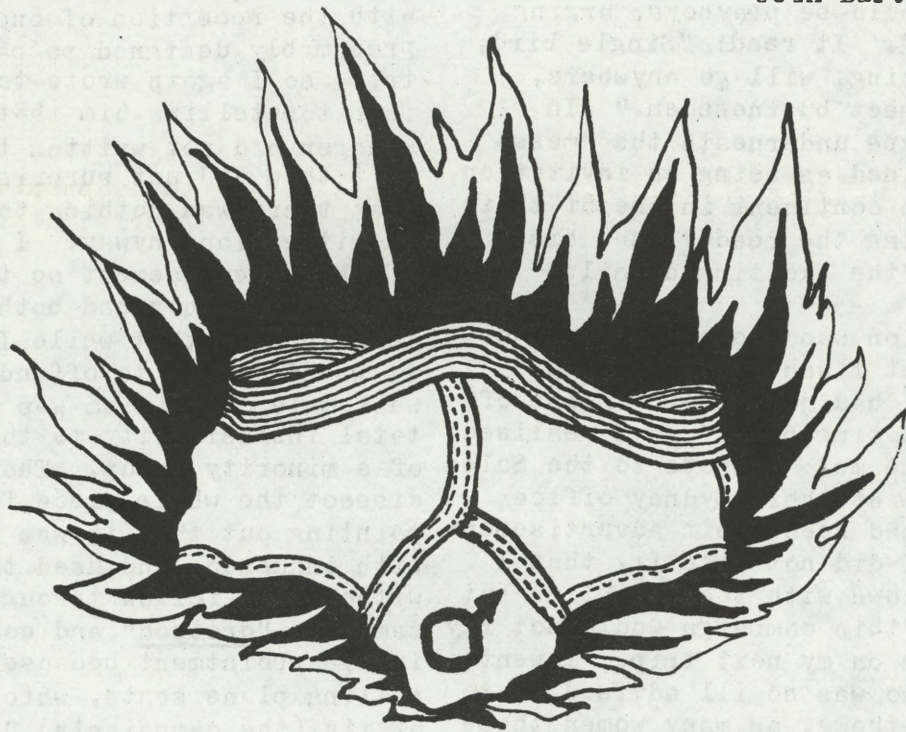


Basically, selfish as it sounds, I support Women's Liberation because I am happier that way. I would not be happy if I thought that the sole aim of Jean's life was to keep the house tidy for me, wash my socks and generally mother me. I am much happier to live in a state of comfortable squalor and wear unironed shirts to work, and know that she is my equal, equally able to work at a satisfying job, free of the thought that at the end of a full day she must rush home and start cooking so that my dinner will be ready when I get home. I am happy that she does not have to ask me for money, that she can drive the car, that she has friends and interests of her own - in short, that she can function as a normal, independent person, unhindered in any way by the fact that she is married to me. We are able to take equal pride and pleasure in each other's achievements because we know that what each of us does is done not in spite of the other but through and for the other. Our responsibilities are shared, our possessions are joint-

ly owned, we have a joint bank account. We continue to live together, not because of legal or financial bonds, but because we enjoy each other, because each of us is a complete person, able to think and choose independently. Which brings me back to where I started - that I could not live happily with someone who was not my equal in every sense, whose interest or well-being was in any way subordinate to mine.

However, I do not think that I am unique, that ours is only an individual solution. I am sure that the traditional notion that woman's greatest happiness and fulfilment are found in ministering to a man, sacrificing her own needs and desires to his, is a cruel myth. I am equally sure that men would be happier if they worked towards abolishing the traditional roles assigned to men and women. I cannot believe that a man can have genuine respect and admiration for someone whose horizons are so limited, whose area of competence and interest is reduced to his nicely pressed trousers and saving 16c on a special at the supermarket.

John Barton



## and one we don't

2/13 Poronui St,  
Mt Eden.

Dear Sir,

After reading the propaganda (sic) in 'Women's Lib's' last pamphlet, I decided that it was time I should be correspondent for the silent majority; namely, the exploited Male.

To write such crap as was written, you (instigators for Women's Lib) have the minds of cretins, and yet, only Hell knows why, are able to get away with it by the fabrication of some notorious

story!!! When are you going to realise that your aura is that of pure beauty and delicate grace. Why do you contaminate such a beautiful image by putting forward these ridiculous ideas of equality

You were created to bear children, the anatomy of your body is sufficient to bear no argument (sic) to this fact. So jump off your high horses, go home and do something useful....like housework....instead of wasting valuable time on such factions as 'Women's Lib'.

Candour inspires trust,  
Love and Kisses,  
D.C. Lowe

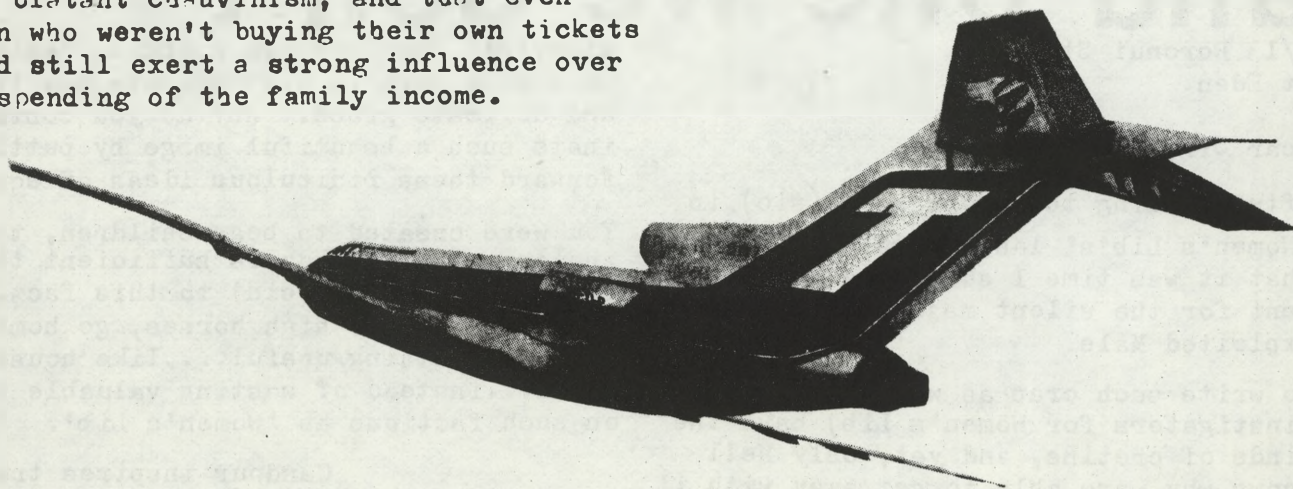


# How to spend two days seeing Australia with a fast bird... and do it with your wife's approval.

One morning in July soon after a trip to Australia, when I had flown from Sydney to Melbourne by TAA - Trans Australia Airlines - I sat down with my morning mug of coffee and a copy of Time which had just come in the mail. Flipping through the pages I came across one of the most nauseating advertisements I have ever read. Filled with none too subtle double entendre it was directed towards swinging, trendy New Zealand businessmen, would-be playboys, urging them to fly TAA. It read: "Single bird, very accommodating, will go anywhere, would like to meet businessmen." In much smaller type underneath the "message" was explained as being an invitation to traverse the continent in one of their jets, and telling the reader that his TAA agent has "the exciting details."

My first reaction was "someone should do something". But I was the one who was offended, and I had just flown in one of their "accommodating birds" so I realised it had better be me. I wrote to the Sales Manager of TAA, at their Sydney office saying that I had seen their advertisement in Time, that I did not like it, that I had recently flown with their airline but as a result of this campaign would not fly with them again on my next trip. I went on to wonder who was so ill advised as to suggest such a theme, as many women these days could also afford to buy 'plane tickets, and wouldn't necessarily like such blatant chauvinism, and that even women who weren't buying their own tickets could still exert a strong influence over the spending of the family income.

Within days I had a reply from the Area Administrator, addressed to "Ms", saying that he did not know what advert was being run here in New Zealand but that he was sorry that I was offended because it was not meant to be offensive, whatever it was. He also said that he had asked his Advertising Manager to write to me. I waited some three weeks, during which time the same advert appeared again. I was not prepared to let the matter drop with the reception of one polite note presumably designed to pacify an eccentric, so I again wrote to the Area Administrator telling him that his Advertising Manager had not written to me. I said that this did not surprise me as I felt that there was nothing that could be said in mitigation anyway. I enclosed a copy of the advertisement so that he would see for himself what had bothered me, and pointing out that while I supposed that it wasn't meant to offend, that this was what male chauvinism was all about - total insensitivity to the feelings of a minority group. Then I went on to dissect the whole piece for his benefit, pointing out that it was unsubtle, filled with innuendo, and used the old "come-on" without any follow through. That the campaign "drooped" and could only result in disappointment because they were only selling plane seats, which was the measure of its (the campaign's) "impotence" because presumably that was what they had





set out to do. I dreamed up an advert using a couple of Queenslanders which would be guaranteed to offend the Aborigines of Australia, since they seemed intent on selling tickets to one section by denigrating another. Strangely enough I got no reply to this letter at all.

However, in October a new advert was published showing a couple gazing out a port-hole of a 'plane, captioned "How to spend two days seeing Australia with a fast bird .... and do it with your wife's approval." The "message" then invited him to let a fast bird show him Australia and maybe his wife too. The female in the picture was much be-ringed on her left hand, but altogether the message was vague and open to interpretation. Such as? If your wife doesn't care, come to Australia and travel with a dolly; or drag the old girl along but have some fun anyway, you sexy devil. Superficially it was better, but not much.

The latest one says "Visit Sydney and see ... the reef... the rock... and Alice." Depending on your tiny, dirty mind you can understand the last to mean Alice Springs or, looking at the hot-pants-clad girl in the picture, whatever you like. They have tried but they don't seem to be able to get it quite right. Since most Australians seem to think New Zealand is inhabited by cannibals in grass skirts, it seems odd that TAA feels it must flatter our menfolk by promoting an image of a country entirely populated by randy executives. (I wonder do they offer their hostesses danger money?). If sex sells tickets so well, why don't they hire a few stewards of Greek/Italo extraction and direct a campaign toward bored women, offering them "an exciting and satisfying" trip? They might be surprised. But I suppose they'd find that a threatening idea.

My campaign has cancelled three plane bookings, and next time I am there I shall fly ANSETT. I don't know how much influence my letters had in changing the presentation of their advertising, but changed they have, slightly for the better. Perhaps there's a message there for us all. There was an agency who told its executive, "The customer is not an idiot, she's your wife".

We should keep reminding them.



# REVIEW

## SEXIST SOCIETY

edited by Susan Kedgley and Sharyn Cederman; Alister Taylor; \$2.95

The publication of 'Sexist Society' marks a step forward for the women's liberation movement in New Zealand, being the first book written by actively involved women. But don't think for a moment that this is the sort of book that will appeal only to the initiated. It is an easy approach to the basic ideas of women's liberation, especially for those who would be put off by the more literary style of Greer or Millett. As Kedgley and Cederman say in their foreword, "many people discuss ideas and generalisations so we have aimed, in this book to concentrate on people". They interviewed twenty-three people of varying marital status (married women, spinster, separated man, etc) and varying sexual orientation (lesbians, homosexual, lover, mistress) in order to develop their theme that nearly everyone, male or female, suffers from being limited by the roles that our "sexist society" imposes. In addition to the interviews there are articles by Toni Church on sex differences, Fraser McDonald on suburban neurosis, and John Werry on the double standard.

The book is marred somewhat, I feel by the drawings, which didn't appeal to me at all, and by the irrelevance of some of the photographs (was the policeman on p.105 really meant to be there, or did he fall out of a book on the Keystone Cops?). Also the photograph on p.96 was used without the owner's permission - Alister Taylor is getting a bad reputation for pinching people's work.

All in all, a worthwhile book, and just the thing to give to someone who is interested in women's liberation, but does not know much about it.

P.S. Porno fans please note: Don't be misled by the ad which has been appearing in "Truth", where "Sexist Society" has been listed in the middle of various manuals of sex positions, massagers, and so on, as "edited by Sue Kedgley and Sharon (sic) Cederman who interviewed lesbians, prostitutes, bored housewives to bring this startling account of sexuality in New Zealand".



# kicking against the pricks:

Some people try and tell us that the reason women don't "get on" is that they don't want to. "There is nothing stopping them doing anything they want!" they cry. Well, here are two jobs you need not bother to apply for. Claude and Associates in a desperately trendy ad were looking for an artist:

"We're looking for a guy (yes a guy - birds are always getting engaged and crying and things.) We want a guy whose second love is doing finished art (his first should be women and booze, or he's not natural)!" N.Z. Herald. What sort of men are Claude and his associates? If you want to find out give Claude a ring at 75846 and ask him.

The Dept of Health advertised an "absorbing worthwhile career" in Health Education. They wanted people between 25 and 35 years of age with UE and some experience in nursing or teaching but "married women with family responsibilities are not eligible".

You know the old story that there is always a woman behind disasters, natural or otherwise. If ships go down, hurricanes strike or the tomatoes get blight the cry is "Cherchez la femme!" Alister Taylor tried it on at the launching of "Sexist Society." "The printer has been working till 2am every morning to get this book ready for tonight, and last night his wife came and dragged him home" he bleated in an attempt to explain why so few copies of the book were available at the launching. I wonder if some woman is also responsible for the dreadful binding on the book. They fall apart when you touch them.

Disgruntled housewives read right. Some hopeful thoughts for the future from Helen Steiner Rice. The poem entitled "Mothers Never Really Die - They Just Keep House Up In The Sky." has been published in women's magazines in forty-three different countries.

Under the heading "Mother of Three near Best World Catch" the Auckland Star told how Mrs Avril Semmens of Russell was having some success breaking records in big-game fishing. While it is difficult to see how Mrs Semmen's fertility has any bearing on her prowess as a fisherwoman, such an approach could be applied to other personalities in the news: "ATTRACTIVE FATHER OF THREE TOPS THE POLLS".

"On November 25 boyish, pleasantly plump Norman Kirk led the Labour Party to a landslide victory. We spoke to him today at the LP Headquarters. Looking relaxed in a 3-button pale grey suit with pale blue floral shirt and matching motif on his socks, Norman explained how he had managed to combine fatherhood with a career. "No, I did not find marriage interfered with my political aspirations" he said with a quiet smile (for which he is noted) "in fact, I kept working right through my wife's three pregnancies. Of course I would never have managed this without the cooperation of my wife".

Mr Kirk is the husband of home executive, Ruth Kirk." Auckland Arst Nov.27.



Death beckoned her with outstretched hand  
And whispered softly of 'AN UNKNOWN LAND'  
But she was not afraid to go  
For though the paths she did not know,  
She took DEATH'S HAND without a fear,  
For He who safely brought her here  
Had told her He would lead the way  
Into ETERNITY'S BRIGHT DAY....  
And there, with step so light and gay,  
She polishes the sun by day  
And lights the stars that shine at night  
And keeps the moonbeams silvery bright...  
For MOTHERS really never die,  
They just 'KEEP HOUSE UP IN THE SKY'....  
And in the HEAVENLY HOME ABOVE  
They wait to 'welcome' those they love.

Sandra Coney



# **broadsheet report**

## **Auckland Womens Liberation**

We are now holding meetings weekly, with a business meeting on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month, and a more socially oriented meeting on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday where we exchange ideas and get to know one another. On March 3rd there will be a seminar and workshop in the MacLaurin Chapel, as part of Orientation Week at University. This will be a joint effort, with several Auckland groups participating. If you have any ideas about how to make this effective, come along to one of our meetings. We will also be speaking in the quad on March 6th.

Two consciousness-raising groups have just started and more will be arranged when there are enough women interested. We meet on Tuesday evenings at 7.30 at Flat 1, 25a Princes St, City.

## **Wellington**

Meetings for 1973 will be starting on February 7th at 194 Sydney St West. Our election questionnaire response was disappointing, but we are certainly clued up for the next election. In the meantime, we do feel that owing to the activity of all feminists and sympathisers throughout the country during the last three years, politicians had their consciousness raised quite considerably, even if sometimes pretty reluctantly.

W.O.W.'s next publication project (following Book 4 'From Bride to Broom', a N.Z. married woman's view of the workings of women's liberation within marriage, now in the final printing stage) will be No.5, the compilation of a pamphlet on women's legal rights.

Box 2663, Wellington

## **Dunedin**

The abortion survey is well under way - results should be out soon. Incidentally, the government will decide if and when the laws on abortion will be changed and public opinion is going to be one of the deciding factors - we hope, so don't forget and don't be lazy - do it ... haggle your M.P. and write letters to the press.

Knowhow will be starting in Dunedin shortly. As well as providing a referral service for enquiries on pregnancy, contraception, V.D. and abortion, we are planning to provide pregnancy testing at a low cost

Dunedin Collective for Woman.

## **Christchurch**

If we get enough support from sisters in other centres we hope to hold an informal conference/gathering here in Christchurch during Easter 1973. We see this more as an opportunity for sisters from the various feminist groups throughout the country to come together, tell each other what they're doing, pool thought and energy, compare progress in different fields and advise each other, than as a formal conference coming out with any sort of national policy. We would like as many sisters as possible to come and we will provide accommodation for all.

## **N.O.W.**

Our first job this year is to plan the year's activities and look at what we achieved last year. So our first meeting on February 5 will be a time to look at ourselves, and a chance for everyone to have their say on what we should do in 1973.

We have done some lobbying among the new Cabinet, and there is a tremendous amount of support for the ideas feminist groups have been advocating, so it's up to us all to put our ideas across. NOW is also readying its constitution and our first A.G.M. is due in March. This is the time for members to get involved and shape our activities to whatever direction seems important to you.

For information, and place of February meeting, ring Deirdre Milne, ph. 689682.

NOW  
Box 2946,  
Auckland.

## **Women for Equality**

We held a Liberation week in the Building Centre from January 22nd to 27th, in which Gay Liberation, Abortion Action, and the Medical Aid for Vietnam committee also participated. We had a very good response, and were surprised at the number of middle-aged women who were interested. Rent for the week was very high, so any donations to cover costs would be appreciated. For the display we imported many books and pamphlets unobtainable elsewhere in N.Z. If anyone is interested in purchasing any of these, please write to Fern Keen, 8 Winn Road, Ponsonby, for details.



## Going solo

### Feeling Let Down ?

If your man has shot through leaving you holding the baby, you needn't despair. Monetary help can be available from the Department of Social Welfare in the form of a Domestic Purposes Benefit if you are prepared to see a solicitor (Legal Aid may cover expenses) to investigate taking action for a Maintenance Order.

The Department of Social Welfare will pay the following :-

\$21.00	If sharing expenses with relatives or friends.
\$32.00	Mother + 1 child in own accommodation.
\$35.00	Mother + 2 children   "   "
\$36.25	"   + 3       "       "   "
\$37.50	"   + 4       "       "   "
\$38.75	"   + 5       "       "   "
\$40.00	"   + 6       "       "   "
\$41.25	"   + 7       "       "   "
\$42.50	"   + 8       "       "   "

Note : The condition of receiving this benefit is that you take all possible steps to get Maintenance Orders. If there are reasons why you cannot take action for Maintenance, see a solicitor anyway. If he will advise the Department that in his opinion nothing can be done you may still be eligible for benefit. In addition to rates of benefit above, extra Supplementary Assistance may be had for women paying high rent. While getting benefit you may earn up to twelve dollars per week before tax which will not affect your benefit. Should you wish to earn more, your benefit is reduced slightly according to the amount of your total earnings.

To apply - First make an appointment to see a solicitor. If you do not already have a solicitor of your own, you should be able to locate one in your area from the Yellow Pages. Then you must be interviewed at the Department by a social worker who will summarise your position.

An expectant mother who is no longer in employment due to her pregnancy and not being supported by her boyfriend is eligible for a Sickness Benefit till the birth of her child. If breastfeeding following the birth she will continue to receive Sickness Benefit but may be transferred to Domestic Purposes Benefit once the child is weaned if she will take action for Maintenance.

Stop Press - solo fathers are now eligible for the same benefits as solo mothers.

## Coming Events

A meeting of all officials and others interested in planning the United Women's Convention, 15-16 September, to commemorate the 80th anniversary of Women's Suffrage, will be held, 9.30 a.m. Saturday, February 24 in the Executive Lounge, top floor, Student Union Building, Auckland University. Bring your lunch. Coffee will be available.

A seminar and workshop on Women's Liberation will be held at the MacLaurin Chapel on March 3rd as part of Orientation Week. For further details see the Orientation Handbook or ring Rosemary Ronald, ph. 689-494.



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